

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions,  
and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

~~1-13. (canceled)~~

D/ 14. (new) A process for joining the ends of hollow  
section strips or the ends of a hollow section strip which has  
been bent into a frame to one another by butt welding, comprising  
the steps of:

forming an edge on at least one surface of each of the  
ends to be joined to one another, each said edge extending over a  
width of said surface, each said edge is set back relative to a  
respective face surface of the ends;

placing the respective face surface of the ends against  
one another;

moving the ends toward one another during the welding  
process until the edges touch one another; and

stopping the welding process as soon as the edges touch  
one another.

15. (new) The process as claimed in claim 14, wherein  
the edges are produced by forming steps.

16. (new) The process as claimed in claim 14, wherein  
the edges are produced by forming grooves.

17. (new) The process as claimed in claim 14, wherein the edges are produced by cutting metal from the walls of the hollow section strips.

18. (new) The process as claimed in claim 14, wherein the edges extend over an entire height of the side surfaces of the hollow section strips.

D' 19. (new) The process as claimed in claim 14, wherein the metal hollow section strips are aluminum.

20. (new) The process as claimed in claim 14, further comprising the step of placing insulating glass on said surface, said surface being inside with respect to the insulating glass.

21. (new) The process as claimed in claim 20, wherein the step of forming an edge on at least one surface comprises forming an edge on a top surface and both side surfaces of the hollow section strips, said top surface being the inside surface with respect to the insulating glass.

22. (new) A process for joining first and second ends of a hollow metal section strip to one another to produce a spacer for insulating glass, the process comprising the steps of:

producing an edge which extends over a width of only one surface of each said first and second ends to be joined to one another, so that an opposing surface is free from any edge, each said edge being laterally outwardly displaced with respect to a respective face of said first and second ends;

placing the respective faces against one another;

moving the first and second ends towards one another  
while butt welding the first and second ends together until each  
said edge touches one another;

stopping said butt welding as soon as each said edge  
touches one another.

D 23. (new) The process as claimed in claim 22, wherein  
each said edge touches one another, so that said surface is  
planar.

24. (new) The process as claimed in claim 22, wherein  
each said edge is produced by forming steps.

25. (new) The process as claimed in claim 22, wherein  
each said edge is produced by forming grooves.

26. (new) The process as claimed in claim 22, wherein  
each said edge is produced by removing metal from said one  
surface.

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